

RKM ✓

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Fayerweather Hall

25 April 1987

Dear Josh,

Harriet & I are just back from the meeting of the American Philosophical Society, having left Philadelphia at dawn to be on hand for a Special University Convocation in celebration of the Bicentennial of Columbia College, this being called to confer an honorary degree on (an old friend), Pat Moynihan. We missed you on both occasions, in Philadelphia & on Morningside Heights.

But there to greet me, was your final draft of that superb discovery account of "Genetic Recombination in Bacteria." "Elevated in spirit and weary of body" (as I have just written Mike Sovorn in a long letter dealing with quite another matter), I was further elevated, informed, and moved as I read the interpreted details of the story I had known in a more general way. Your ms. climaxed an exceptionally inspiring several days.

All that before coming to the opening lines of your acknowledgments which brought Harriet and me back to that annus mirabile we shared at the Center in the year of Annie's birth. Your concluding ¶ had given us both analytical and moral pleasure; your generous words about our time together gave us yet another, personal joy.

As friendship continues to grow and deepen, it increasingly surprises by a fine excess. These last years with you and yours have shown me that.

BR

Josh,
note the
co-citation ✓

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MERTON RK
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A copy-editor's afterthought: Would the consistent omission of the umlaut from Delbrück's name as it appears in your ms possibly be over-interpreted?